

# California Legislature

**DON PERATA**

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE  
STATE SENATE

July 30, 2008

Dear Friends:

It's trial balloon time in Sacramento – that crazy point in state budget negotiations when all sorts of fanciful notions are floated as “solutions” to the state's budget crisis.

The latest example is the idea of raiding Prop. 42 transportation funds to help close the budget gap.

I have a one-word answer: NO!

One thing we've done right in California is work together to rebuild our long-neglected infrastructure. Thanks to our efforts, we're building the roads, schools, housing and flood control projects we're going to need to turn California's economy around – and keep people working until it does.

I see Prop. 42 – and Prop. 1A – as key components in these efforts. Raiding these funds now would break faith with voters who joined us in supporting the plan to rebuild California, and slow down one of the state's best engines for economic growth.

We need a long-term solution to put California back on sound fiscal ground – not more short-term borrowing and short-sided thinking. I can't stop people from floating trial balloons in Sacramento, but I can sure shoot this one down before it gets very far.

Sincerely,



Don Perata  
Senate President pro Tem